

【Check Against Delivery】

**Opening Remarks of Mr. Kiminori IWAMA,
Ambassador of Japan to Austria
Permanent Representative to the OSCE
OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group Meeting
“Economic security and supply chain resilience
-Strengthening inter-regional co-operation and market
integrity”
June 15, 2026 9:00-11:30**

Thank you.

First, we welcome the 2026 OSCE Asian Conference, which was held on May 28 and 29, co-hosted by Finland and Thailand. The conference was successfully held in the capital of an Asian Partner for Co-operation for the first time since 2019, deepening our understanding of the common challenges shared between the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. We highly appreciate the active role of Finland, as the Chair of the Asian Partners, in strengthening the relationship between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

Madam Chair,

At today's meeting, we will discuss "Economic security and supply chain resilience," building on our discussions at the APCG meeting in July last year regarding "Economic connectivity." Last year's meeting highlighted the inseparability of economic security between the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions, and underscored how immediate and severe the impact of economic disruptions in one region can be on others.

Today's meeting takes place against the backdrop of recent international developments, notably the situation in the Middle East. These developments are global in scope, transcending the Euro-

Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions, and posing significant challenges to global supply chains. In this context, we wish to deepen our discussion on supply chain resilience to address these common challenges across the OSCE region and beyond, with a particular focus on the region surrounding Asia.

Madam Chair,

Sustainable development inherently encompasses economic security as an indispensable element for protecting the stable foundations of our economies and societies. Strengthening supply chains, protecting critical infrastructure, and promoting critical technologies form the essential foundation for building a sustainable and resilient society.

For any nation, the core mandate of security is to safeguard "the security of the nation and its people." The scope of this mandate has increasingly expanded into the economic sphere, driven by the growing complexities of international affairs and shifts in socio-economic structures. To ensure security today, it is vital to address diverse risks not only through traditional diplomacy and defense but also through economic measures. From this perspective, the OSCE's comprehensive approach—which integrates economic, environmental, and human dimensions alongside political and military security—is more relevant than ever.

Madam Chair,

Large-scale cyberattacks and international terrorism—risks that exceed conventional assumptions—have materialized, significantly impacting people's lives and the economy. Furthermore, as countries advance research and development in innovative technologies such as AI and quantum computing, the frontier of security is rapidly expanding into economic and technological fields.

In response to this evolving landscape, Japan set its course under the National Security Strategy adopted in December 2022, defining clear directions to "improve autonomy," "secure superiority and indispensability," and "maintain and strengthen the international order." To operationalize these goals, Japan has enacted legislation such as the "Economic Security Promotion Act" and the "Act on the Protection and Utilization of Critical Economic Security Information." Through these frameworks, we are ensuring the stable provision of critical infrastructure services, strengthening the supply chains of critical goods and raw materials, and promoting the development of advanced technologies through robust public-private collaboration. We recognize that economic security cannot be achieved by governments alone; it requires deep trust and robust partnership with the private sector, which drives technological innovation.

Furthermore, this vision of economic security is closely intertwined with Japan's geopolitical strategy for a stable and prosperous international community. Last May, Prime Minister Takaichi visited Vietnam and announced an evolved vision for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP), with a particular emphasis on economic security. This new vision underscores the necessity of fostering regional "autonomy" and "resilience." It calls for deeper cooperation in advanced technologies—such as AI, data ecosystems, and semiconductors—and the co-creation of robust economic structures so that nations can avoid over-dependence on a single source and effectively resist external pressures.

In addition, as global economic interdependence deepens, we must confront the growing threat of economic coercion—the use of abusive, arbitrary, or opaque measures to achieve political objectives by leveraging economic ties.

Japan has been actively consulting with like-minded partners and countries. We are promoting international cooperation to counter economic coercion through concrete efforts, including the Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers at the Japan-U.S.-Australia-India

(Quad) Foreign Ministers' Meeting on May 26, the Critical Minerals Initiative framework, and the Communiqué on Economic Resilience and Economic Security issued at the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting on May 5-6.

To support Japanese businesses expanding overseas, we have also established dedicated consultation points at our diplomatic missions to assist companies facing economic coercion.

Madam Chair,

As a long-standing Asian Partner, Japan remains fully committed to contributing to the OSCE, leveraging this unique platform to bridge the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security.

We are privileged to welcome outstanding experts from academia, government, the private sector, and the OSCE to today's meeting. We look forward to an interactive exchange of views that will deepen our understanding of cross-regional threats and opportunities in economic security, and further illuminate what the OSCE can achieve in this vital arena.

I thank you.